



# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

APRIL 2019 VOLUME 10 ISSUE 4

## INSIDE

New employment paradigms	2
A2's new progressive trespass ordinance	2
Spirituality and recovery	3
Comprehensive care	4
Reducing repeat ER visits	5
Care packages at Liberty Park	7
Poetry	8
Puzzles	9
Local filmmaker directs 'Bride + 1'	10
Low-income artists' gallery	10
10 local adventures for under \$10	11
Theatre review: 'The Ding Dongs'	11
Asparagus with hard-boiled eggs	12

## Climate change heats local activism

p. 6

\$2

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Photo by Peter Beyer

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## New employer and employment training paradigms



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

Perhaps we have been approaching job training programs backwards. The traditional emphasis is on teaching hard-to-employ people soft skills – such as dressing and speaking appropriately in the workplace – as well as high-demand job skills. There might be equal or greater opportunity in teaching supervisors to be supportive.

Over the years at Groundcover, I have known a number of people who easily procured service-sector jobs but rarely lasted more than three months. Their reason for leaving usually boiled down to their unwillingness to be disrespected. Objectionable managerial behaviors included yelling, belittling and talking down to them. Instead of trying to train workers to be submissive, wouldn't it

be more productive to train managers to deliver constructive criticism and nurture employees?

Zingerman's has long recognized and profited from evangelizing great customer service and employee training. Michigan might profit from this in-state resource to teach fast-food, retail and health-care businesses how to effectively supervise employees, especially those whose backgrounds and generations differ from theirs.

Imagine how much more effective it would be if supervisors were conditioned to calmly explain how they want things done and the reasoning behind their method, and to respectfully and openly consider the employees' reasoning for doing it another way. It may sound radical, but Zingerman's promotes open-book management, a business model in which all employees are provided with the tools to act and take responsibility like owners.

The sessions on "how do you talk/hire/interact with the various hidden-talent

groups" and "equity and disparities" at the March 18 Workforce Pipeline Summit indicate a growing awareness of the cultural chasms that impinge on the workplace success of certain employees and the need to bridge these gaps to fill job openings in Washtenaw County.

Participants at the Washtenaw Poor People's Campaign Summit in February traced many of the most intractable local problems back to the lack of livable wages for many who work and reside in Washtenaw County. Discussions on how to address this problem led to the suggestion that public employers in the county change their practices to ease their employees' financial duress and set a new standard for employers.

Beyond paying a living wage, replacing the practice of hiring many part-time and temporary people with taking on full-time permanent employees with health care, sick days and vacation benefits would make a big difference in ameliorating the stress and finances of those now cobbling jobs together. Employers could go a step further and

give a second chance to those who have spotty employment or criminal histories. A department at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital is leading the way in making these changes.

Why should they do this? There are the obvious moral reasons: When people are able to meet their family's basic needs in a normal work week, they are more stable and have more time and energy to nurture their children. But employers might find that increased productivity also results. A recent experiment in Great Britain showed that when employees worked four eight-hour days a week instead of five, their weekly productivity actually increased. With enough time to manage the rest of life on their days off, they concentrated on work during their working hours.

As the area's biggest employer and a renowned research institution, the University of Michigan is well-positioned to institute these changes in some departments and share the results with the world, starting here in Washtenaw County.

individual being trespassed from these areas can have lasting effects and lower the likelihood of a person's rehabilitation and recovery.

There is little doubt that the emotional trauma of an individual experiencing hardship or housing instability may cause them to conduct themselves inappropriately. Banning an individual from these areas not only takes away a vital service but increases the likelihood of more trouble for that person down the line.

The MLive article, "Ann Arbor approves new approach to prosecuting trespassers," further revealed that trespassing results in lengthy legal problems involving court appearances and marks on one's record, which can undermine a person's journey to healing and recovery. Having been personally subjected to trespass and seen friends go through it, I know it creates fear and suspicion, plus distrust of the very institutions charged with aiding in one's recovery.

Not only does the new city ordinance improve due process for individuals

## A2's new trespassing law is a good step



by Elizabeth "Lit"  
Kurtz  
Groundcover  
Vendor #159

Several deadlines to end homelessness have come and gone in the city of Ann Arbor. Disappointingly, none were met with complete success and there is little indication that they will be in the near future. However, City Council passed a new trespassing ordinance on Feb. 4 that promises a light at the end of the tunnel.

Trespass orders are made by police when a person is no longer welcome on the premises. A violation of a trespass

The recognition that trespassing is a symptom of larger, more complex social or personal ailments may be one of the necessary changes that result in the grinding down of the pernicious homelessness crisis. "Jailing people for trespassing isn't helping them," Arienne Slay, senior assistant city attorney, told MLive in February.

In the absence of a year-round day shelter, people often occupy libraries and other spaces as a refuge from the elements. The consequences of an

## LETTER to the EDITOR

### Will Ann Arbor's future be affordable?

Between the large number of new apartment buildings suddenly appearing at Madison and Main and the giant crane lurking further south, big changes to our community are now in store. These changes are unlikely

to benefit low- to moderate-income people and should not be allowed to spread further. Ann Arbor's future should be available to all!

Paul Lambert

see TRESPASSING, page 8

## My quest for spirituality in recovery

by Zhandra S.

Groundcover Vendor #233

You might recognize me from my last few articles. I feel honored if you've read them. As I have mentioned, I am a recovering alcoholic and wouldn't have recovered without the aid of Alcoholics Anonymous. In AA, I learned I need a spiritual solution and that I must come to believe in a higher power. This month I wanted to share my experience developing a faith in something bigger than me. I must admit it hasn't been limited to spirituality, but I have relied on the religion I grew up with: Catholicism.

I'm not a "good" Catholic, however. I hardly ever go to mass or confession. I don't read the Bible, either. Being that I don't go to mass often, I don't take communion too often. And when I do, I doubt I recently confessed my sins to an actual priest before communion.

However, I do believe in God. And he's not a punishing God. He will not punish me if I don't attend mass regularly. He accepts my mistakes and forgives me when I ask for forgiveness in my private prayers. Plus, I like to think I don't sin too often, as I prefer to avoid having to make amends later.

The AA program has not been an easy journey for me. I don't really get comfort meditating and I find it a little hard to believe in the souls or spirits of our bodies as something separate. I think we are just flesh that rots when we die. I don't think my spirit will stick around after I die. Therefore, I don't really understand how spirituality works or what's expected of me to experience spiritual growth. Religion seemed an easier approach for me to develop a stronger faith in a higher power. So this is what I've done.

During the fall of 2017, I joined Alpha, a 13-week course offered by Christ the King Catholic Church in Ann Arbor. This course taught me the way to God is Jesus Christ. It taught me there's evidence that Jesus Christ existed for real and that he is our savior. It taught me about the Holy Spirit and the Bible.

I understand I might scare some people away when I talk about Jesus Christ. But let me tell you a little story I heard in the first session of Alpha.

Most of us have big life questions, like: Where am I headed? Why am I here? Is there more to life than this? It is not often that we sit down to think about these important questions. Alpha has

given me space to question these things openly with the fellows who attended with me, and there has been no judgment at all about anyone's beliefs. As a matter of fact, Alpha is there for people who want to understand the meaning of life and faith but might not identify as believers or Christians.

According to the first session of Alpha, it is Jesus Christ who gives meaning to our big questions. Jesus said, "I'm the bread of life" (John 6:35) – in other words, a relationship with him fulfills the longing everybody has in their hearts. Jesus claims to be the one who can satisfy that spiritual hunger.

In the first Alpha video about finding answers to our big question "is there more to life than this?" they referred to successful actors, comedians and singers to show that success is not the answer. Freddy Mercury, lead singer of the band Queen, said in an interview before his death, "You can be everything in the world, and success may bring you a fortune, and still be the loneliest man." He suggested his fame and career prevented him from having what he needed the most – a loving and ongoing relationship.

Jesus also said, "I'm the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Ultimately

there's only one relationship that is totally loving and goes on forever, and that's a relationship with God – and Jesus said, "I am the way to that relationship."

Jim Carrey was another actor the video quoted. "I wish that everyone could get rich and famous and have everything they ever dreamed of, so they would know that that's not the answer."

If you care to look for and find answers, you might discover that there's evidence of Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection, too. Many scientists over the centuries have been believers. Some of them are Descartes, Newton, Kepler, Galileo, Locke, Copernicus, Faraday, Kelvin and Pasteur.

But when Jesus said "I'm the truth," he meant more than the intellectual truth. It's not the same to rely on the intellectual truth as to experience the personal truth. What that means is that it's different to know Jesus from your head than from your heart – not only examining the truth but experiencing a relationship with him.

When we do things that aren't right, the wonderful news is that God loves us and forgives us. God gave his only son

see QUEST, page 8

## Washtenaw County Continuum of Care

APRIL 2019

15

9-11 am

Washtenaw Community College  
Morris J Lawrence Building  
4800 E Huron River Drive

# SAVE THE DATE!

## 2019 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT COMMUNITY DEBRIEF

## & COC ALL-MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We are pleased to share the results of the 2019 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County, along with the latest news on our communities efforts to end homelessness.

*Open to the public- please share widely.*

*Coffee will be provided.*

Questions? Contact Andrew Kraemer  
kraemera@washtenaw.org | 734-544-6883

## GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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# Community health workers go beyond their clients’ medical needs

by **Erin Spanier**  
**Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation**

Ebony Curry is beaming.

With temperatures dropping quickly, she’s been worried about one of her clients – someone who’s been in and out of the emergency room a lot lately – who can no longer fit into his winter coat. After a series of calls, she’s found one that will fit and clearly can’t wait to get it to him.

As a community health worker with the Livingston-Washtenaw Community Health Innovation Region, Curry is part of a coalition of caregivers at 11 local organizations who collaborate to serve hundreds of residents who struggle with the kind of complex health and social problems that can land them in the ER repeatedly.

On the health side, many of their clients have multiple chronic medical conditions – heart problems, breathing disorders, diabetes, chronic pain, mental health challenges, addictions and more. On the social side, their clients have housing challenges, food shortages, transportation needs, financial concerns – the list goes on.

“Usually you go to them and they tell you one problem and you help them with that,” said Curry, who works at the Washtenaw Health Plan. “You keep going to them and you find out there’s more, much more, like layers of an onion.”

‘Anywhere they’re needed’

Dr. Paul Valenstein, an Integrated Health Associates physician who co-chairs the communitywide care coordination effort for the Washtenaw Health Initiative, says CHIR’s average client “makes 12 trips to the emergency department a year, is admitted to the hospital two or three times annually and is more likely than not to suffer from mental illness or substance abuse.”

The initiative hopes to improve the health and quality of life of these clients while demonstrating that true patient-centered care – care that addresses people’s health, mental health and

social needs – can reduce the need for costly emergency department services.

Brent Williams, director of the Complex Care Management Program at Michigan Medicine, says comprehensive care management is a relatively recent phenomenon, but one that has grown of necessity. “One care manager works with a client for health needs, social service needs, mental health needs—wherever the needs go, that’s where the care coordinator goes with the patient,” Williams explained.

The design of the current community-wide care coordination initiative incorporated learnings from previous local initiatives, like Avalon Housing’s Frequent Users Systems Engagement program, which provided housing and support services to high-cost utilizers of the health system. What’s new about CHIR is that those care coordinators talk to each other across organizations, share information about what their clients need and work together to meet those needs.

“And not only are they talking to each other, they also have access to community health workers – intensely patient-facing partners who cross all the boundaries,” Williams said. “The

patients love them. The care managers love them. They go anywhere they’re needed and they take a client’s perspective, rather than an institutional perspective, and that’s crucial.”

**It takes a lot of trust**

That kind of all-encompassing care is unusual, and patients aren’t always ready for it when it’s offered. “You’re asking patients to open up their whole life to you, and they don’t know you from a can of paint,” Curry said. “They have to sign paperwork, go here, go there, meet this person, then that person, then share all of their information again.”

Community health workers, such as Curry and her colleagues Renato Quelhas and Maria Pomo Castillo at the Washtenaw Health Plan, build trust by showing patients they’ll be there for them, often in ways that traditional care coordinators can’t. They call patients when they haven’t heard from them in a bit, help with the patient’s needs – even

if they aren’t imminent medical priorities – and always follow through.

Community health workers are a precious, shared resource across the initiative, a uniting force between care coordinators at a coalition of Livingston and Washtenaw County agencies that focus on health, mental health, substance use, food, housing and other needs. Of the 200-plus patients in the initiative, 82 have a community health worker on their care team.

**Hot water and other health needs**

What do community health workers contribute to these care teams? First and foremost, they help patients access health care – helping them get and keep health insurance, find a primary care physician, schedule appointments with medical specialists, secure prescriptions and medical equipment and navigate a complex health system.

Second, and particularly important for the patients enrolled in this initiative – 64 percent of whom report food insecurity, 37 percent of whom report housing insecurity – community health workers help patients address needs that, when unmet, can play an outsized role in health outcomes.

“Our health system is fragmented and difficult to navigate,” said Jeremy Lape-dis, the project manager housed at the initiative’s backbone organization, the Center for Health and Research Transformation.

“Patients with chronic conditions are expected to coordinate multiple appointments, plan months in advance, take medications on an exacting schedule. This can be hard for anyone, but it’s a lot harder when you have to worry about whether you will have cell phone minutes to last you through the month, will be able to get a ride to the doctor’s office or will have heat when winter sets in.”

Quelhas recently helped a client in a mobile home do just that. She had diabetes and high blood pressure, plus a sparsely populated pantry, limited money, poor access to transportation and few community connections. In addition to helping her navigate appointments, doctor’s orders, and medications, Quelhas worked with



**Livingston-Washtenaw Community Health Innovation Region team members Ebony Curry, Jodi Ostroskie, Maria Pomo Castillo and Renato Quelhas. Ostroskie is with St. Joe’s and the other are all community health workers with Washtenaw Health Plan.**

care coordinators across the initiative to secure home food delivery, rides to church and a senior center, heat and hot water.

“Instead of printing out the food-pantry list, we’ll take them to the food pantry, make sure they know how to access it, and carry in the groceries,” said Katie Wolfe, a care coordinator at Home of New Vision, which works with CHIR. “We’re trying to go above and beyond, to get patients to a different spot.”

That kind of help – not medical, but just as necessary – makes it much easier for patients to focus on their health.

**‘Someone who can’**

Though community health workers have worked in Livingston and Washtenaw Counties for years, this initiative employs them in a novel way: as a shared resource and bridge among health, mental health and social service providers.

For Curry, who earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology and criminal justice at Eastern Michigan University, the job is something of a calling. While growing up, Curry moved around a lot, throughout western Wayne County and Detroit, and she understands how difficult it can be to open up to a series of strangers.

“[Our clients] are trying to manage chronic diseases on limited income, and they’re caught in a system and may not be able to navigate it to get the services they’re eligible for,” said Curry.

While federal funding for CHIR ends in November, the Washtenaw Health Initiative hopes to sustain this community-wide care coordination effort.

**Learn more:**

- Washtenaw Health Plan, 734-544-3030, 555 Towner St., Ypsilanti
- Washtenaw Health Initiative, 734-998-7555, 2929 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor

# Comprehensive help keeps Cameron Cheek out of the ER

by **Erin Spanier**  
**Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation**

In December 2017, Cameron Cheek visited the neighborhood health center in Ypsilanti. He’d recently been in the emergency room for heart problems. Patrice Dziuban, his St. Joseph Mercy case manager, told him about a new program that might help: the Livingston-Washtenaw Community Health Innovation Region.

At first, Cheek wasn’t very interested. But when he returned to the ER the next month, he agreed to give it a try. “I have an a-fib. And my lifestyle – I was eating wrong and it was horrible. I was going to the hospital once a month,” he said.

After Cheek signed up, he was paired with Ebony Curry, a community health worker with CHIR, who visited him at home to see how she could help.

“Ebony took me to a few medical appointments and worked really closely with Patrice to get these appointments,” he said. “It was a like a godsend.”

**Getting there**

Getting to those medical appointments wasn’t always easy. Cheek could drive, but he needed a wheelchair, walker or cane once he got out of the car. Ebony would meet him at the entrance to the specialist’s office, park her car, come back to park his car, then walk with him to the appointment.

“Some of the medication they give you for your heart is counterproductive to your mobility,”

Cheek said. “At the time my gout was so bad I couldn’t really walk.”

When Cheek’s heart condition was better managed, Ebony steered him to Huron Valley Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, a program that helps seniors stay in their homes and communities as long as possible. If he qualified, PACE would pick him up at home and bring him to a central facility where he could get medical care, physical and occupational therapy, meals and entertainment.

After some hesitation – “I would have to disconnect from Patrice, and I remember I told Ebony I don’t know if I really want to do that” – Cheek agreed to try PACE.

“I think Ebony figured I needed to fill my day,” Cheek said. “I’d had a very, very busy life, and when my heart issue started, it was like a void.”

**Celebrating sobriety**

Cheek’s life has been hectic but fulfilling. “I’d been an addict, and if it wasn’t for my family, I almost certainly would have been homeless,” he said. “I went to Dawn Farms for treatment and the greatest thing that ever happened to me was recovery.”

Cheek was later hired by Dawn Farms, then by the Delonis Center where he worked first as a desk clerk and later as a case manager.

“I felt a strong need to give something back after recovery,” Cheek said. “I couldn’t wait to get to the shelter to go to work. I ran out of the house one shoe on, one shoe off. When we were doing clients, I wanted the most difficult, hardest, alcoholic-junkie they could give me because it gave me so much joy to see them turn their life around. Then I’d play jazz, soul and R&B percussion by night.”

While at Delonis, Cheek helped organize Ann Arbor’s first Sober Fest in the early 2000s. “The most difficult thing to do is live sober in Ann Arbor on April Fool’s Day with three or four thousand people smoking hash on the street,” Cheek said. “So we decided to have a celebration of sobriety, brought in bands, invited treatment centers, and invited sober artists who couldn’t get into the art fair.”

Cheek’s health problems put an end to work, volunteering and performing. He was faced with regular doctor’s appointments, prescriptions, lifestyle changes and transportation challenges.

**Kicking it with the boys**

Ebony worked with Cheek on his PACE application – a three-part process that can take a month or more to complete. When he was accepted, she was thrilled. Now, Cheek goes to PACE every Wednesday and Friday.

“PACE comes to pick you up in the morning and you have coffee and kick it with the boys, kick it up with the old boys,” Cheek said. “Yesterday the den-



**Washtenaw Health Plan community health worker Ebony Curry uses the resources of the Livingston-Washtenaw Community Health Innovation Region to substantially improve her clients’ quality of life and reduce their use of emergency services. Photo by Peter Beyer.**

tist was scheduled, so I had my teeth cleaned, talked to the nurses, had lunch around twelve, listened to some bluegrass, then went home at three or four.”

PACE addresses health issues in real time, Cheek said. “Ebony was quite convincing that PACE was the place to go, and she was right.”

Ebony continues to work with Cheek on a few remaining needs, but he hasn’t been to the emergency department in almost a year.



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## Earth Day 2019: Reflections on climate change and environmental sustainability



by Will Shakespeare  
Groundcover Vendor #258

*“We disregard the needs of our ecosystem at our mortal peril. That was the great lesson of Earth Day. It must never be forgotten.”*

– Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.)

A group of University of Michigan and high school students organized the Washtenaw County Climate Strike at the U-M Diag on March 15. After a sit-in at the university’s Fleming Administration Building, police detained and released some protesters, including Ann Arbor Public Schools trustee Jeff Gaynor, according to MLive. The protesters wanted the university to set a meeting to discuss a public Q&A with U-M President Mark Schlissel to talk about what the university is doing about climate change.

Scientists agree nearly unanimously that human activity is causing Earth’s atmosphere and oceans to warm up, which threatens rising sea levels and weather catastrophes. They say we must drastically reduce the amount of carbon we’re adding to the atmosphere or suffer dire consequences in coming decades.

The day before the protest, Christina Figueres, known as the architect of the Paris Climate Agreement, spoke at U-M’s Hill Auditorium.

“The world is moving towards de-carbonation ... The science has informed us about the risk,” Figueres said. “You either agree with the climate science or you do not!”

The Paris Climate Agreement seeks to coordinate international efforts to combat climate change. Signatories to the Paris Agreement, such as India and China, are meeting and exceeding what they said they would do. She believes the world is moving in the right direction, but not fast enough. President Trump pulled the United States out of the accord in 2017.

Locally, Schlissel, Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners



Students skipped class March 15 to attend the Washtenaw County Climate Strike on the Diag. Protesters demanded urgent action to combat climate change. Cover: An activist leads chants at the Climate Strike. Photos by Peter Beyer.

have committed to addressing climate change. Over 1,400 communities and cities, including Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, have signed on the Paris Agreement.

### Earth Day

April 22 will be the 49th Earth Day. The first Earth Day was observed in 1970. More than 20 million Americans took part in demonstrations on city streets, college campuses, downtowns, high schools, churches, stadiums, urban neighborhoods and rural farms. The demonstrations raised awareness of the magnitude of environmental and sustainability concerns. Activists wanted the world to know the planet was at risk if we fail to protect the environment.

Before Earth Day, interest in environmental issues was on the back burner. But in September 1969, Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) proposed a “National Teach-In” for every college campus in America to intensify the dialogue on environmental quality and the urgent need for public policy solutions. He also proposed a national day of conversation, “The Earth Day.”

Teach-ins were first developed by Vietnam War protesters at the University of Michigan to influence public opinion by galvanizing college campuses across the nation.

### Michigan connection

Two major environmental disasters in 1969 energized the environmental movement. An off-shore oil rig collapsed and spilled millions of gallons

of oil on the California coast, and the Cuyahoga River near Cleveland caught fire because of unregulated chemical dumping.

President Richard Nixon signed landmark environmental protection laws such as a new Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Management Act, the Pesticide Control Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Resource Recovery Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Toxic Substance Control Act, the Occupational

Safety and Health Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Michiganders were willing to shoulder the cost of repairing an environment damaged by unregulated industry. When Gerald Ford was a Michigan congressman, he asked his constituents: “Should the federal government expand efforts to control air and water pollution even if it costs you more money in taxes and prices?”

The result: 68.3 percent said yes. As a result, Ford voted to override President Nixon’s veto of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.

Free educational Earth Day activities around the county include:

- Washtenaw Community College – April 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Cultivate Coffee and Tap House in Ypsilanti – April 14, 3-7 p.m.
- Leslie Science Center – April 28, 12-4:00 p.m.



## St. Francis of Assisi Parish Come Worship With Us!

“Then your light shall break forth like the dawn  
and your wound shall quickly be healed”  
(Isaiah 58:8)

### Holy Week & Easter Sunday Special Times

#### Holy Thursday 4/18 Good Friday 4/19 Holy Saturday 4/20

Mass of the  
Lord’s Supper  
7pm

Service of  
Scripture & Music  
12pm

Blessing of  
Easter Foods  
12pm

Sung Night  
Prayer  
11pm

Veneration of  
the Cross  
1:30pm  
  
Sung (Taizé)  
Evening Prayer  
7pm

Easter Vigil Mass  
8pm

### Easter Sunday 4/21

Masses at 7am, 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm

2250 East Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor  
**www.StFrancisA2.com** 734-821-2100

## Care packages and personal care April 7 in downtown Ann Arbor

by Charlotte Yang  
Groundcover U-M Contributor

Care packages and services will be available 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 7 at Liberty Plaza (Liberty and Division in downtown Ann Arbor). For the last two years, Michigan Movement, a student-run nonprofit at the University of Michigan, has developed care packages to deliver to Mercy House and the Delonis Center.

This spring, we are looking to do more for the community through a collaborative and engaging event at Liberty Park. In addition to our care packages, we will be including food, music, health-care screenings and haircuts. We hope the food and music will help create an atmosphere where U-M students and the community can converse and build relationships, and that all individuals feel comfortable utilizing the provided services.



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## Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2019

What do you mean they cancelled April Fools Day? That sounds like something a little kid would say right before playing a prank.

OK, you got me there. I just wanted to see if you were paying attention.

Paying attention to what, exactly?

Well, someone may try to prank you. Or even me.

Oh please. After the random not-so-funny pranks life has thrown my way, I think I can handle a little seasonal verbal sparring.

Oh no, it can't be sparring anymore, didn't you hear? April Fools pranks can no longer cause surprise or apprehension for the victims. All pranks must also be carbon-neutral and dolphin-safe now.

Wait, what? How is anyone supposed to make sense of that? That would pretty much end April Fool's Day!

April Fools, mom!!!!

still  
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Health Department

[www.washtenaw.org/StopHepA](http://www.washtenaw.org/StopHepA)



## COMMUNE

by Christopher Ellis  
Groundcover  
Vendor #483

We are the universe  
and there is no part  
single  
alone or in a private cocoon  
not visible  
to the breathing blood and  
psychic air  
passing in our lungs  
distilling like clear water  
like one huge  
rain drop  
one transparency  
one fluid cornea  
seeing all  
being all

## My spiritual quest in recovery

continued from page 3

to die for you and me and, overall, for our sins (for the forgiveness we get). On the cross, he took all of our guilt and cleansed our souls from the regrets so we could live life at its fullest.

Most of us don't want to live life alone; we long for a light inside. And Jesus claims to be that light. He's like a crutch that helps us stand firmer. He helps us gain strength when we feel weak. Jesus picks us up. When I read about Jesus, I saw that he was everything that brought meaning to my life.

For me, it's easy to neglect and forget that. To stay reminded of his presence in me, I have enrolled in Alpha a second and third time. The second and third times, I attended as a helper or group's host. This course is available twice a year at Christ the King. Other churches offer the same program. The Alpha videos are on YouTube, but it's best to watch with a group followed by a discussion with your mates. I'll try to remember to keep you posted when the next session starts again.

To summarize, I'll tell you that Alpha has changed the way I think of God and religion. I grew up with the belief that religion was boring, and that it left me feeling inadequate or perhaps not good enough compared to "good" Christians. Who would want religion in their lives if it only brings them negative feelings about themselves? No one. And I didn't either.

But in Alpha I never felt judged. And to start where each of us is, is just fine. No one is better than anyone else. The strongest believers aren't better than the skeptics. If anything, it's about being open-minded to decide for yourself without pressure if you want to become a believer and accept Jesus Christ into your life. And I think I did and that hasn't meant I have to be perfect. I fall short every day and wish every time I could have handled certain situations better, but for me it's just about growing in my faith and trying to be better, myself. Happy April!

## Ann Arbor relaxes stance on trespassing

continued from page 2

who are trespassed, the potential benefits of this change may prove to be invaluable in the long run, as it is one of the rare policies that focus on empowering a person rather than punishing them.

"We are here to help people," Slay said. She and the council members who sponsored the ordinance understand that there is a need to stop feeding the vicious cycle that trespassing crimes create. Ann Arbor's changes to trespassing policy hold great possibilities in helping detangle at least one of the obstacles that contribute to chronic homelessness.

City Council's vote shortens the trespassing process and offers the opportunity to have a trespass expunged from one's record. It ushers in support services such as literacy, which is particularly promising. According to Vitanna.org, a personal finance blog, "When someone receives more education, they are less likely to commit a crime and are more likely to earn a living wage."

Slay is convinced that by giving the City control over the trespassing process, individuals will be connected with services that the city can provide and avoid the prosecution associated with the prosecutor's office. City officials said "the goal is not to punish people, but to make the court process simpler and to better connect offenders with supportive resources," according to MLive.

It is refreshing that, as we move further into the 21st century, more agencies embrace a method often used in education called positive behavior support, which can allow for better outcomes. The recognition that punishing people for trespassing when they are most vulnerable is counterproductive will help to give those experiencing the devastating effects of homelessness access to the tools needed to emerge from it. This is a significant first step and a crucial part of the puzzle to bringing the homelessness crisis to an end. No deadlines are promised, but a commitment to equip people with the services they need may be the formula to fade this centuries-old quandary into the distance.

### Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149  
[Bethlehem-ucc.org](http://Bethlehem-ucc.org) [facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2](https://facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2)

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office

#### Sunday Worship Times

8:30 a.m. Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary  
10:15 a.m. Sunday school

#### APRIL 2019 EVENTS:

April 2 Gentle Yoga, 11 a.m. in the Gallery  
April 4 & 18 Prayer Circle, lounge  
April 7 Homecoming Day - celebrating friendship and belonging and a rededication of the Fellowship Hall  
Board Game Night for ALL ages, 6:30 p.m.  
April 11 German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 – 12:30, \$1 or \$10 dozen  
April 13 To place an order call the church office: 734-665-6149

#### HOLY WEEK AT BETHLEHEM CHURCH:

April 14 Palm Sunday services, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
April 18 Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall  
April 19 Good Friday Vigil, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., Chapel  
April 19 Good Friday Services, 12:00 and 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary  
April 21 Easter Sunrise Service, 6:45 a.m., Bethlehem Cemetery  
April 21 Easter Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

## Sudoku ★★☆☆☆ 4puz.com

4	3		5			9		
	1				2			
5	6		9	1				
2							4	8
	4	7				6	9	
6	8							7
				6	5		2	4
			7				1	
		4			1		3	6

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

## GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a non-profit organization that works with newspaper vendors who are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

- I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.

- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

**All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:**

Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper.

- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.

- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.

- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not

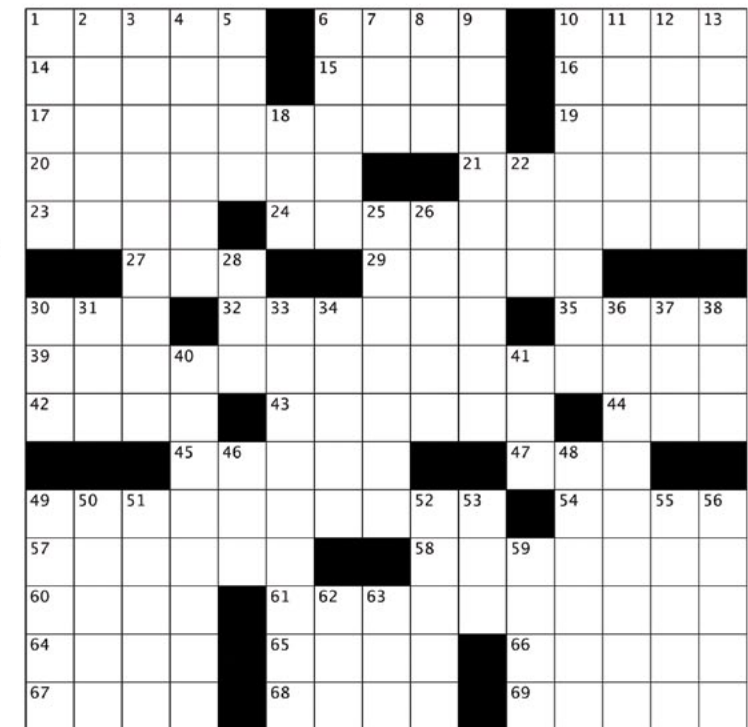
Flower Power Peter A. Collins

#### ACROSS

- Doesn't take anything in?
- One of a pair on a table
- Jarred sauce brand
- Accustom
- Bridge support
- Musk of Tesla Motors
- "Fancy" rapper
- Beatles movie or song title
- Added on, botanically
- Cooling-off period?
- "Wedding Bell Blues" composer Laura
- Porky's girlfriend
- \_\_\_ Magnon
- About to get
- Barnyard sound
- L.A. suburb mentioned in Tom Petty's "Free Fallin"
- Smirnoff rival
- Best Supporting Actor nominee for "Bang the Drum Slowly" and "Moonstruck"
- "Not guilty," for one
- Bubbled up
- Yoko of music
- Unit of heat
- "Much appreciated," in a text
- Grammy nominated country/folk singer
- On any occasion
- 1932 Ford auto
- Magnificent
- Trick
- "Grace and Frankie" star
- French fashion magazine
- "Pardon the Interruption" network
- "Twilight" protagonist \_\_\_ Swan
- Setback
- Frisbee
- Cutlery material

#### DOWN

- Pretend
- Peeved



Peter A. Collins

- Moose tracks holder, maybe
- Strive to get
- Straphanger's lack
- Gardener's tool
- Have a cold, say
- Director Spike or Ang
- Cost for riding Amtrak
- Practice, theatrically
- Take \_\_\_ of faith
- \_\_\_ body (cell part)
- Remove, as a currency from a fixed rate
- Led \_\_\_ (British rock band, for short)
- AFL-\_\_\_
- No-win situation?
- Allow to flow again
- Mine extraction
- Top star, initially
- Crude matter?
- Debilitated
- Bit of bad weather
- Tennessee's third largest city
- Yang's counterpart
- Former NBA great \_\_\_ Ming
- Some marbles
- Banned insecticide for short
- Good cholesterol, briefly
- Knight cap?
- Drive
- Comics friend of Nancy
- Personal heroes
- Boy band of the '90s
- Noise of disapproval
- French novelist \_\_\_ Zola
- Pertaining to kidneys
- Fishing floats
- "It \_\_\_" ("Who's there?" reply)
- What DJs spin

## GROUNDCOVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES PACKAGE PRICING

Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size (W x H)
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	3.5 x 2
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1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 x 4
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 x 6.25
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	10.25 x 6.5 or 5 x 13
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10.25 x 13

Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off  
Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off  
Full Year/Twelve Issues: 35% off  
Additional 20% off ads with coupons



## Local filmmaker welcomes the muse

by Laurie Wechter  
Groundcover Contributor

Christina Morales Hemenway is an Ann Arborite who, against all odds, has made four feature films. Hemenway said her most recent film, “Bride + 1,” grew out of watching girlfriends stay in relationships beyond their child-bearing years with partners who kept saying they wanted kids, just not quite yet. Hemenway spoke with frustration about how her friends would have made great mothers and were cheated out of a wonderful experience.

“If the muse gives you a story, it is your responsibility to deliver it,” Hemenway said. “It takes the same amount of energy to sit on a dream than to go after it. It is not so important that you attain the dream but that you deliver the message and not criticize the message.”

“Bride + 1” is a zany comedy about a 39-year-old Latina who has never been married and wants a child. She sends a wedding invitation to her friends telling them that she will be married “this time next year.”

Hemenway moved to L.A. for college, with dreams of being an actress. When she auditioned for a role, she was told to change her name to Moore from Morales. At auditions, she was told she didn’t look Latina enough or she looked too ethnic.

After four years studying acting, Hemenway realized she didn’t like performing as much as she’d anticipated, so she started writing scripts and directing short films. She met Syd Field, “the guru of screenwriting,” and he let her work for him in trade for writing classes. With him, she learned screen-

play structure and the importance of timing and pacing within a film for dramatic effect.

Meanwhile, she got married and decided that she’d like to be close to her parents when she had children. As fate had it, Gov. Jennifer Granholm had started an incentives program for film-making in Michigan (film companies received 42 percent rebates on their costs), so the scene was set for a move back to Ann Arbor to build a family and to make films.

What made her feel like she could take such a risk? “I was born with the boon of just having love, a loving family,” Hemenway said. Her family didn’t have much money, but she watched her father (and Groundcover supporter) Elmo Morales “manifest things from nothing.” She remembered her dad going to Detroit every morning at 5 a.m. to buy fruits and vegetables. He brought them back to the Common House at Pontiac Heights (now Arrowwood Cooperative) and they’d barter.

“Pontiac Heights was considered a government program, but because of this bartering system he created, they were able to become a cooperative,” she said. “He was the founder and race director of the Dexter-Ann Arbor Run, and I remember the excitement of him getting ready for it. It felt important. In some ways my personality is like my dad’s. He is extroverted.”

Hemenway has always had a knack for making things happen on a dime. She found money to make films by doing things like having people pay \$25 a plate to be extras in a scene filmed at Lord Fox. She does online auctions, she crowd-funds. Her dad went around to friends with restaurants asking for a

day’s catering, opening doors for her through his network. She hires technical people who bring their own equipment.

Hemenway took the lead role in “Bride + 1” because of budget concerns. “Casting myself was a fiscal decision. I play the character with the most time on camera.” She had only two months to learn the role and work out how to play behind and in front of the camera. “I had to do two playbacks for each scene, the first time looking at myself and judging and second time looking at the scene and asking does it work for the movie.”

She had to overcome other doubts she had about her role. “[The] screen puts on five to 10 pounds and I’m already not comfortable with myself and I’m going to have to see myself five to 10 pounds heavier,” she said. “What I came to is, if I’m not willing to hire her, then who will? I’m allowed to hire an average-sized woman to be the lead actress.”

Asked what it’s like to take a leap of faith when you have no money and what advice she’d give others wanting to pursue filmmaking, she said, “First thing I’d say is to document. Take your phone and ask questions of the people around you, if [they] have an artistic passion about filmmaking. Create alliances. If you don’t know how to do something, go out and find somebody who does. Barter skills. Do trades. Piracy is rampant, so protect your work. Even if you don’t, make sure there’s a trail back to you.



Christina Morales Hemenway produced, directed and stars in “Bride + 1,” a comedy that will screen this month at Michigan Theater in downtown Ann Arbor. Photo by Katie Cleese.

“This is the best time in history to do this. Everybody has a cell phone or device. One filmmaker made a feature film all on a cell phone and received all kinds of attention at a film festival. My advice would be to just do it. Everyone has a story to tell, just everyone.”

The April screening of “Bride + 1” at the Michigan Theater in downtown Ann Arbor is a fundraiser to pay the actors in the film. The goal is to raise \$10,000. “The actors worked for next to nothing, and I need to pay them in order for the film to be released,” she said.

She is asking ticket buyers to come to the screening in a tux, a tacky bridesmaid’s dress or in a wedding gown.

Want to be an extra on the big screen? Go to Facebook and look for A2CastingCo.


### Know and go:

**What:** Advance screening of “Bride + 1”

**When:** 3 p.m., April 27

**Where:** Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor

**Tickets:** \$12 for the screening and Q&A; \$50 for VIP reception with cast and crew after the screening

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## Art on a Journey: low-income artists' gallery

by Rose Marcum-Raugh  
Groundcover Contributor

Journey of Faith, which has long been a supporter of the homeless community, is announcing a new venture: an art gallery. “Art on a Journey” will highlight the work of artists experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity and poverty. The gallery is in the basement of Journey of Faith at 1900 Manchester St. in Ann Arbor, and the opening is 4-8 p.m., April 5.



Detail of watercolor painting by Rose Marcum-Raugh.

The opening will include the work of several artists, after which there will be a monthly rotation of exhibiting artists. Ninety percent of the sale of all art will go di-

rectly to the artists, with the remaining 10 percent going to Journey of Faith’s homeless ministry.

Journey of Faith’s homeless ministry includes the “Soap and Suds” program where folks can sign up to use the shower and laundry facilities for free, and to help with the creation and distribution of hygiene kits and hosting the winter daytime warming shelter.

As the new homeless-ministry intern, I look forward to working with the community and highlighting the skills of the many remarkable artists in the community.

## 10 for \$10

### Exploring Washtenaw County on the cheap

by Mariah Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

Looking for something to do that won’t break the bank? Hoping to try something new? Wanting a little something sweet or savory? **10 for \$10** hopes to introduce or reintroduce you to low-cost or free things to do in Washtenaw County and surrounding communities.

**1. FOOLmoon Parade:** 7-10 p.m., April 5. All are invited to gather in the streets of Kerrytown in Ann Arbor to shake off those cold, gray winters and march to Main St. Interactive art installations, laser shows, beer tent, DJs, street dancing and more. **FREE**

**2. FestiFools Gathering:** 4-5 p.m., April 7. Hand-crafted, people-powered papier-mâché puppets parade through downtown Ann Arbor in a kooky and colorful public art event. This is FestiFools’ 13th year of welcoming spring. **FREE**

**3. The U-M Museum of Natural History** in Ann Arbor is reopening April 14 in its new home, the Biological Sciences Building at 1105 N. University Ave. Check out the latest in fossils and new research with interactive exhibits, new programming spaces and a state-of-the-art planetarium and dome theater. Admission is **FREE**; planetarium and theater shows are \$8 apiece. [lsa.umich.edu/ummnh](http://lsa.umich.edu/ummnh)

**4. See the stars at Peach Mountain Observatory** from 7-11:30 p.m. on April 6 and 27. Peach Mountain is on North Territorial Road about four miles north of Dexter. To get to the observatory, travel 1.1 miles west along North Territorial Road from the Dexter-Pinckney Road intersection. You will see a small maize and blue sign that marks the gate. **FREE**

**5. Amazing handmade breads, muffins, croissants and more at The Lakehouse Bakery,** 1534 Sugarloaf Lake Road, Chelsea.

**6. Read to LibbyLulu the Library Dog:** 6-7:30 p.m., April 11 at the Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti. Reading to a Therapaws dog helps kids become better readers. Sign up for a 10-minute slot by calling 734-482-4110 ext. 1390. **FREE**

**7. 10th annual Ride for Recovery by Dawn Farm:** April 28, 6633 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti. This family-oriented fitness event features bike rides and fun runs of various distances and morning start times, and supports the Farm’s services. Event registrations start at \$25: [www.dawnfarmrideforrecovery.org](http://www.dawnfarmrideforrecovery.org). If you get lunch only (11:30 a.m.), it’s \$5.

**8. Birding at Koenn Preserve:** 8-10 a.m., April 20, at 2200 Hayes Road, Chelsea. With forests, fields and wetlands, the preserve’s varying habitats are a lovely place to look for early spring birds. Bring binoculars and a bird field guide. **FREE**

**9. Growing Microgreens workshop:** 7-9 p.m., April 25. Michigan Folk School at Staebler Farm, 7734 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, will teach you how to grow, care for and harvest microgreens indoors all year long. Space is limited. Register at [parksonline.ewashtenaw.org](http://parksonline.ewashtenaw.org) (Registration #831006, Section C). **FREE**

**10. 2019 Student Art Show at Washtenaw Community College:** Work will be featured in 2-D, 3-D, photography, painting, drawing and pottery. Continues on the second floor of the Student Center, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, through April 6. **FREE**

*Want to contribute to 10 for \$10? Please send ideas for inexpensive treasures and experiences in and around our vibrant community to: [submissions@groundcovernews.com](mailto:submissions@groundcovernews.com)*

## ‘The Ding Dongs’: Who really owns a home, anyway?

by Zhandra S.  
Groundcover Vendor #233

“The Ding Dongs: What Is the Penalty in Portugal?” is a play running through April 14 at Ann Arbor’s Kickshaw Theatre about a married couple – Natalie, played by Casaundra Freeman, and Joe, played by Daniel Helmer – who arrive unannounced at a house which they claim for their own. Joe grew up in the house and wants to revive some memories. Natalie and Joe say over and over that the house will be theirs and the current occupant must leave. As Redelmo, played by Dan Johnson, insists they can’t kick him out of his own house, the couple becomes more demanding and insistent that they belong there, instead.

Executive director Jane Griffith said Kickshaw wanted to perform this play because it was funny but also a thriller. She was at the edge of her seat when she first read it. Griffith explained the odd title: “Ding dong” refers to the doorbell that rings at Redelmo’s house as packages addressed to Joe and Natalie are delivered. Those packages become evidence the house is theirs. “Portugal” alludes to historical land disputes between Spain and Portugal. It has to do with a bigger question of who owns a home and who is allowed to call a home their own. It’s about not feeling safe at home and, therefore, feeling motivated to find something new at all costs.

Natalie’s long speech to reinforce the couple’s belief that that house is to be theirs was very interesting. It raises the questions of whether land can really be owned. Owning land is an arbitrary thing that people just started doing at some point in history. But is it really my place to say this is more my property than yours?

Natalie and Joe decided to steal Redelmo’s house because Natalie’s house had been stolen in a more tragic manner. If others do it, why can’t she? There’s nothing fair about having your house stolen, but if that is the norm, she can steal a house too. And she did it “right”; she approached Redelmo in a nonviolent way and that was, in her eyes, fair enough. The play left me wondering what chain of events would ensue if Redelmo fought to get his house back or acquire one from someone else.

My review is five stars! The actors are really into their roles and play them very well and with much enthusiasm. Redelmo, for example, literally shows he is out of control and losing his mind. Natalie and Joe’s sarcasm and sense of entitlement is well-played, too.

*“The Ding Dongs” plays at the Kickshaw Theatre in Ann Arbor through April 14. Visit [kickshawtheatre.org](http://kickshawtheatre.org) for details.*

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

4	3	2	5	8	7	9	6	1
7	1	9	6	3	2	4	8	5
5	6	8	9	1	4	2	7	3
2	9	5	1	7	6	3	4	8
1	4	7	8	5	3	6	9	2
6	8	3	4	2	9	1	5	7
9	7	1	3	6	5	8	2	4
3	2	6	7	4	8	5	1	9
8	5	4	2	9	1	7	3	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	A	S	T	S		A	L	T		R	A	G
14	E	N	U	R	E	15	P	I	E	R	E	L
17	I	G	G	Y	A	18	Z	A	L	E	A	
20	G	R	A	F	T	E	D		21	22	I	C
23	N	Y	R	O		24	P	E	T	U	N	I
					27							
30	31				32							
33	34				35							
36	37				38							
39	V	I	N	C	E	N	T	G	A	R	D	E
42	P	L	E	A		43	F	O	A	M	E	D
					45							
48					49							
52					53							
56					57							
58					59							
62					63							
65					66							
67					68							



## Asparagus with hard-boiled eggs

by Elizabeth Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

2 pounds thin asparagus  
1 hard-boiled egg, shelled and finely chopped  
1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley leaves  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted  
Salt and pepper to taste

## Directions

Trim the lower third of the stem end; you will be using the tender tips. Place the asparagus tips in a skillet and cover with water. Turn the heat to high, bring the water to a boil, and cook the asparagus

tips until they are soft (20-25 minutes). Drain and arrange on platter. Sprinkle with egg and parsley, then season with salt and pepper. Pour butter over asparagus. Serve immediately.  
Eggs and asparagus can't be beat!

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